



Iowa Department of Human Services

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INFORMATIONAL LETTER NO.1432

DATE: October 16, 2014

TO: Iowa Medicaid Hospitals, Physicians, Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioners, Certified Nurse Midwives, Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC), Rural Health Clinics (RHC), Maternal Health Clinics, and Screening Centers

FROM: Iowa Department of Human Services, Iowa Medicaid Enterprise (IME)

RE: Coverage of Screening and Brief Intervention (SBI) for Alcohol and Drug Use

EFFECTIVE: Immediately

*******This letter replaces Informational Letter No. 735 dated August 12, 2008*******

The IME would like to clarify coverage of SBI for alcohol and substance abuse screening in an office, outpatient hospital, or emergency room setting.

Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) Codes 99408 and 99409 continue to be covered. The description of these codes requires both a drug or alcohol screening and brief intervention. CPT code 99408 should be used for alcohol and/or substance abuse standardized screening and brief intervention services that are 15 to 30 minutes in length. This code cannot be used to bill services that are less than 15 minutes. CPT code 99409 should be used for alcohol and/or substance abuse standardized screening and brief intervention services that are greater than 30 minutes. These two codes cannot be billed together.

When completing a standardized screening, CPT codes 99408 and 99409 cannot be used as these require a brief intervention in addition to the screening. Because CPT codes 99408 and 99409 are a screening and brief intervention service, it is not expected that there would be a substance abuse diagnosis on the claims for these CPT codes. Substance abuse treatment services must be billed to Magellan by providers enrolled in their network.

FQHCs and RHCs:

FQHCs and RHCs must bill the appropriate encounter code for this service and include the appropriate CPT code (99408 or 99409) on the claim. The guidance provided above also applies to FQHCs and RHCs. Reimbursement will be made to FQHCs and RHCs for the encounter code only.

Screening:

The Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System (HCPCS) code H0049 can be used for alcohol and/or drug screening.

HCPCS code G0442 can be billed for initial alcohol misuse annual screening for 15 minutes. These codes cannot be used in conjunction with 99408 or 99409.

A nationally recognized standardized screening tool must be used for either of the screening services.

If you have any questions, please contact the IME Provider Services Unit at 1-800-338-7909, locally in Des Moines at 515-256-4609 or by email at imeproviderservices@dhs.state.ia.us.